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29 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-64 (Part I), "Soviet Bloc Capabilities, Through Mid-1953."

BACKGROUND

1. The production of this estimate was authorized by the IAC on 13 March at the suggestion of the Board. The original target date for its publication was 15 May (IAC-M-64 Revised). This deadline was subsequently changed, in consultation with the NIE Staff, to 1 September (IAC-M-25).

2. Meetings have been numerous and long, but profitable to all participants.

3. In keeping with the discussion in the IAC meeting of 23 October, we have excluded all war-gaming paragraphs and limited ourselves to estimates of raw capabilities.

4. Supporting detailed estimates will be coordinated and circulated, in the form of three Appendices,* for final review by the IAC representatives within a few days.

SUBSTANCE

5. Air Force — possible reservation. So far as we can determine, all agencies now subscribe to the present text. The only possible exception is in connection with paragraph 5, where the Air Force may insist on a reading which would describe as "major" the deficiencies which will remain in the Bloc air defense system during the period of the estimate. In the event Air Force does bring this up, General Cabell might settle for a cross-reference to the sections of the Appendix in which Bloc military deficiencies are enumerated.

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* Appendix "A" - Non-Military Factors Affecting Bloc Capabilities.
Appendix "B" - Estimated Bloc Military Strength.
Appendix "C" - Bloc Political Warfare Capabilities.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

6. That the estimate be approved for publication;

7. That the IAC agree to the publication of three Appendices separately bound under one cover; and,

8. That the IAC agree to the final coordination of these Appendices by telephone concurrences.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

PAB:SK:le
Distribution
Addressee - Cys 1 to 4
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